

Tale Feathers

Feb 2003

Volume 70
Number 2



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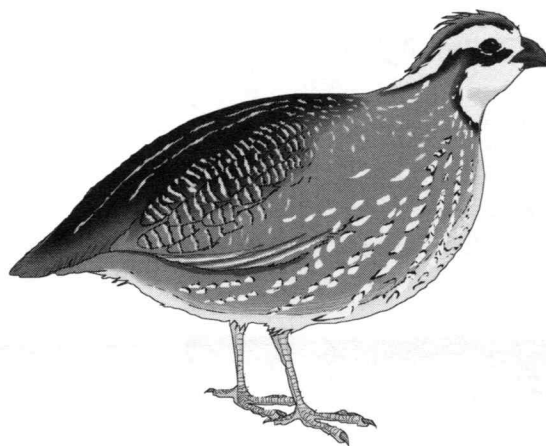
A Photographer's View of Natural Missouri

February Joint Meeting with WGNSS

Friday, February 14 at 7:30 p.m. at the Creve Coeur Community Center.

Every year Audubon and the Webster Groves Nature Study Society hold a joint meeting. This year, our featured speaker is Jim Rathert, photographer with the Missouri Department of Conservation, who will present *A Photographer's View of Natural Missouri*. Jim joined MDC in 1970 and is presently lead photographer for the Missouri

Conservationist and heads up the MDC Photo Unit. He will present many of his favorite photos and provide background on each.



Plus, meet other members and discover opportunities for involvement throughout the society. Open to all, members or not. Refreshments will be available

From I-270 and Ladue, go east on Ladue, left at the light at New Ballas, go 1/2 mile north to the Creve Coeur Government Center at 300 N. New Ballas. Community Center is in the basement.

Questions, call Mitch Leachman at 314-739-5112.

Mark your calendars so you don't miss any of our awesome programs.

Dave Tylka will be presenting his book, *Native Landscaping for Wildlife and People*, Thursday, March 27, 7:30 p.m., at Litzinger School.

John Hoskins, Director, Missouri Department of Conservation, Sunday, April 13, at location TBD

"Raptor Awareness," presented with live birds from the World Bird Sanctuary, Tuesday, May 20, 7:00 p.m. at the Sanctuary.

St. Louis Audubon Society

Volunteers

PLEASE JOIN US

Please join us for the next newsletter mailing party on Feb. 21, 2003. Meet new people and help out your Audubon Society at the same time.

Call Anne Bolte at (314)832-0938 or Bill Salsgiver at (636)225-1490 for details

NEW LOCATION NEEDED

Wild Bird Rehabilitation is the only rehabilitation clinic for injured and orphaned songbirds in the St. Louis metropolitan area. We have been here for 10 years caring for over 2000 birds a year. Now we need a new site, and we are asking the community for help. We are looking for a piece of land with or without a building in a location that is easily accessible to the public. We also need privacy for outdoor aviaries. If there is an existing building, we need a minimum of 1200 sq. ft. We certainly would welcome a tax-deductible donation or we are prepared to purchase if costs are within our means. If you have any information, please call WBR at 984-9116 and leave a message for Carol, or e-mail: carol@wildbirdrehab.org.

Member Profiles

This month we continue our series of profiles of St. Louis Audubon members.

David Rabenau was elected to the board in 2002 as Treasurer.

Describe your educational background.

I have a Bachelor of Social Work, a Master of Divinity, and a Master of Science in Social and Applied Sciences Research.

Describe your current occupation.

I design web applications and write Java programs.

What is your current function/role with SLAS?

Treasurer, member of the Finance Committee, and member of the ad-hoc Media Committee.

What is your #1 conservation concern at any level, from local to global?

The preservation of wilderness.

In what ways can NAS or SLAS address this concern?

Environmental education efforts and involvement with and influence in the political process.

What is your long-term vision/goals for SLAS?

To increase the availability of outdoor experiences that educate and inspire people and will hopefully instill in the participants a strong appreciation for and desire to preserve the natural world.

Award Nominations

Nominations are now being accepted for the St. Louis Audubon Society Conservationist of the Year, the Robert J. Terry Award and the Legislator of the Year Award. Each award recognizes those whose work supports the mission of the Audubon Society. High school student awards will be given to exemplary juniors and seniors who plan further study in ecology or related fields.

All nominations should be sent by March 1 to :

Julie Leemann
13021 Barrett Crossing Court
Ballwin, MO 63122

Should Tale Feathers Accept Advertising?

Jim Holsen

As we will be discussing in the coming weeks and months, a couple of years ago the National Audubon Society Board of Directors voted to change the Chapter Policy Document that, since 1986, had governed relations between the National Audubon Society (NAS) and its chapters. In past years, National Audubon had rebated to the chapters a portion of the dues they had collected, an amount referred to as Dues Share, to cover the expenses of publishing a newsletter and other services provided by the chapters. Chapters had been forbidden to collect dues themselves.

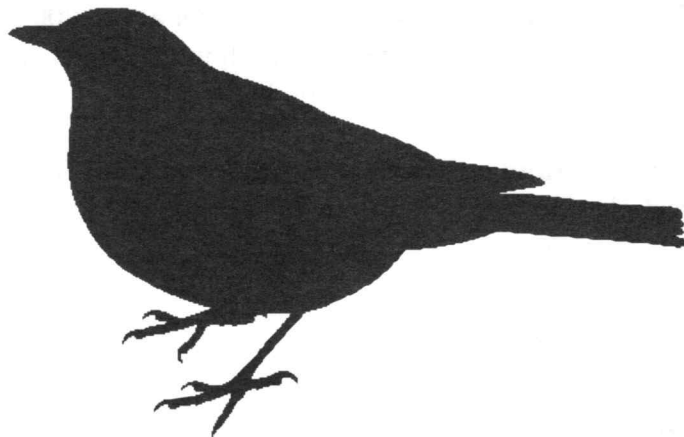
In another change, however, the NAS Board decided that chapters may now collect dues from a new class of members (Chapter Only Members), members who are not also members of National Audubon. Chapter Only Members generally wish to see their dues money going to support conservation and conservation education activities in their own communities.

Returning to Dues Share, according to the new policy, the total Dues Share available for distribution to the chapters will be calculated as the difference between total dues income to NAS and the expenses of membership recruitment, defined as including the costs of publishing Audubon magazine, less the advertising income. If that formula were to be used to calculate Dues Share today, the Dues Share to the chapters would be essentially zero -- and that is what it is expected to be in future years. Fortunately, the NAS Board provided a "safety net," stipulating that for three years the chapters would receive a fraction, one-half this year, of their past Dues Share.

In recent years, St. Louis, as one of the ten largest chapters in the nation, has been receiving from \$12,000 to \$16,000 per year in Dues Share, approximately the cost of publishing and mailing the newsletter. If St. Louis Audubon is to maintain its conservation and education activities, it will need to find additional funds to cover the cost of the newsletter.

At its January meeting, the Board of St. Louis Audubon voted to consider accepting advertisements in the newsletter. By postal regulations, advertisers must be related to the objectives of a not-for-profit organization. But advertisements can also be a service to members. Many Audubon societies have accepted newsletter advertising for many years -- an example is the Burroughs Audubon Society of Kansas City.

St. Louis Audubon would appreciate knowing the response of its membership to this proposal. Send your comments to our president, Bill Salsgiver. By email, to: wjsals52@hotmail.com; by mail to: 911 LaCherie Dr., Ballwin, MO 63021. Bill's phone number is given elsewhere in this newsletter.



So, You Say You Want Something to Do This Winter...And Beyond

Jim Malone

For some time now, the St. Louis Audubon (SLAS) and Webster Groves Nature Study (WGNSS) Societies have been offering St. Louis area birders a great variety of birding trips throughout the year. In previous years, there were times when scheduled Audubon walks were also listed in WGNSS newsletters as WGNSS/Audubon walks. Beginning with this issue of Tale Feathers, we will be offering an expanded series of walks for everyone led by the best birders in St. Louis! We are combining the many walks offered by the WGNSS organization with those already scheduled for SLAS, and guess who wins...You, the birder! In the coming months, we will begin making new schedules for next year, and we will split the leading tasks between volunteers in both organizations. Keep your eye on upcoming Tale Feathers editions for more great walks, and come out and join us on some (or all) of these walks. As always, the walks are designed for all levels of experience, and we would love to see you there.

February 2, (Sunday) Riverlands Environmental Demonstration Area, 8:00 AM Join Mike Thelen for a visit to our favorite winter birding location. Meet at the area headquarters.

February 8 (Saturday) Riverlands Environmental Demonstration Area, 9:00 AM This is one of the regularly scheduled SLAS visits to Riverlands in February. This time of year we can expect lots of Bald Eagles, Gulls, and waterfowl. Join Paul Bauer and Jim Malone as we look for the best of the season. Meet at the Teal Pond parking lot.

February 9 (Sunday)- Carlyle Lake, 8:00 AM Dan Kassebaum will lead this trip to one of the best birding locations in the Midwest. Join Dan for a day of exciting birding meeting at the Carlyle McDonalds.

February 16 (Sunday) Baldwin Lake, 9:00 AM Join Paul Bauer and Jim Malone at this visit to a couple of special locations in Southern Illinois. To get there, cross the Jefferson Barracks bridge (I-270 South) into Illinois and follow Highway 3 South to Redbud. Take Highway 154 East to Baldwin, Illinois and follow the signs in the middle of Baldwin to the lake. Meet at the parking lot inside the gate. This is an all-day trip, bring a lunch and something to drink.

February 23 (Sunday) Riverlands Environmental Demonstration Area, 8:00 AM Meet Joe Eades in the Teal Pond parking lot for this trip. Wear lots of warm clothes! Joe's Trips are always interesting, join him and learn something.

March 2 (Sunday) Busch Conservation area, 8:00 AM Mike Thelen will lead this walk to Busch. Lots of interesting birds may appear at Busch in the winter. The variety of habitats makes almost anything possible, and Mike has what it takes to find them.

March 9 (Sunday) Riverlands Environmental Demonstration Area, 8:00 AM Let's face it. Riverlands is a great place to bird in the winter. Come out and join Tom Parmeter as he searches through the gulls, raptors, and waterfowl for those winter rarities.

Wow, that's quite a list of trips, and this is just the beginning! There are outings to fit nearly anyone's schedule. If you want more information and listings of future trips, keep an eye on the WGNSS website (www.wgnss.org) and our website (www.stlouisaudubon.org) or contact the trip coordinators Kent Lannert at (618) 624-4464 or Jim Malone (636) 536-1119.

Audubon Camp Scholarships

The St. Louis Audubon Society is once again pleased to offer scholarships to the Audubon Ecology camps in Maine, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. The scholarships cover the cost of the 6 to 7 day camp session fee and include up to \$200.00 towards the cost of transportation.

Educators are especially encouraged to apply. Camp scholarship information is typically sent to the science coordinators of the St. Louis area school districts in January. Interested applicants unable to obtain this information from their science coordinators should contact'

Julie Leemann
13021 Barrett Crossing Court
St. Louis, MO 63122
(636) 861-1490

Persons interested in having a great vacation and attending camp on their own should call 1-866-428-3826. Experiencing an Audubon camp is truly a wonderful and enriching experience. They are well kept secrets and attendance is often lower than one would expect for the high quality programs offered at very reasonable costs.

ART CONTEST

As a celebration of St. Louis Audubon's 55th anniversary, we are announcing our first ever art contest. Winners will be published in a history of the society to be published this spring and each will receive a \$25.00 gift certificate to Wild Bird Center in Creve Coeur.

There will be a winner and runner up in each of three categories:

- a. Elementary school
- b. High school
- c. Adult (over 18)

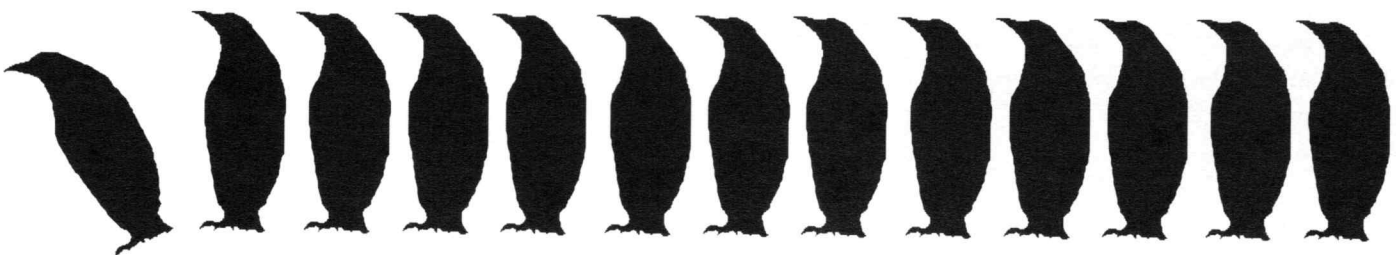
To enter the contest, send your original drawings, pictures and artwork to the editor:

Anne Bolte
6939 Sharp
St. Louis, MO 63116

Be sure to include your name, address and which category you are entering. Entries will be judged by SLAS board members and should be submitted by March 14, 2003. Winners will be announced at our annual meeting on April 13, 2003.

Good Luck!

(Did you know the St. Louis chapter was the first local chapter of the National Audubon Society?)



Masters of the Sky

The Rivers Project is home to one of the largest wintering populations of eagles in the country. With over 200 eagles at the peak season, it is truly an eagle watchers paradise. The most popular way to observe and learn about the eagles on the River is through the programs that are available. The Rivers Project has been conducting eagle programs every winter since 1996 and they have now begun for the 2003 season.

This year brings the Masters of the Sky program scheduled for January 18th & 19th at Clarksville and February 1st & 2nd at the National Great Rivers Museum, hosted by the World Bird Sanctuary. Founded in 1977 by renowned ornithologist Walter C. Crawford, the Bird Sanctuary's mission is to preserve the earth's biological diversity and to secure the future of threatened bird species. Environmental education is the primary focus of the organization, and the programs are a wealth of interesting details concerning the natural history of raptors, some problems they face, and what people can do to insure their survival.

Hawks, owls, falcons, and eagles are just a few of the majestic raptors scheduled to appear at the Elephant Building in Clarksville and the National Great Rivers Museum at Alton. This presentation will give the visitors a chance to get an up close look at some of the most spectacular birds of prey, and also includes some demonstrations of birds in free flight. The flight of hawks and owls over the audience is probably the most noted part of the program, and provides visitors with a unique perspective of these fascinating winged creatures.

Programs are scheduled at 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., and 3:00 p.m. daily at Clarksville. Programs are scheduled at 10:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m., 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. daily at Alton. The World Bird Sanctuary will be charging \$3 per adults and \$2 per children. All programs are open to the public and last approximately 45-60 minutes. For more information, please call the National Great Rivers Museum at (877)462-6979.

Conservation Report

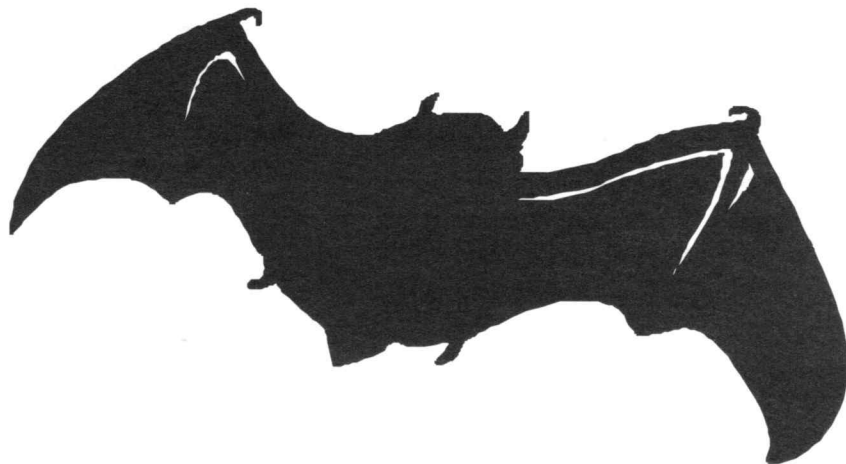
Sue Gustafson, VP Conservation

Jim Malone and I continue to represent St. Louis Audubon at the monthly meeting of the Environmental Advisory Committee for St. Louis County Parks' Creve Coeur Lake Park. The County is in the process of finalizing a Master Plan for the park as a result of the many changes occurring in the vicinity, mainly due to the construction of the Page Avenue Extension. The Plan is expected to be complete by late spring or early summer.

Creve Coeur Lake continues to attract numerous waterfowl species, including loons and scoters. The Little Creve Coeur wetlands west of the main lake (and south of the Page Avenue extension) is an important, sensitive area that warrants special protection. Results of a recent citizen survey indicated that park users would like to see active recreation (such as ball fields) in areas north of the highway, while limiting areas south of the highway near the wetlands to passive recreation such as hiking and nature watching. The county is very interested in maintaining and enhancing the integrity of this important wetland area. Discussions are being held to determine the possibility of converting a former driving range building into an education center. St. Louis Audubon is pleased to have the opportunity to provide input into the county's decisions regarding this important bird habitat and to be involved in potential opportunities to educate the public about the importance of wetlands. Stay tuned for more information about the park's master plan as it is finalized.

St Louis Rainforest Advocates invites you to:

The Rainforest Ruckus, our annual winter party
Free food and slides
Elma Kay tells of her research in the Antilles on
"Mammalian Pollinators (bats) of Night Flowering
Passion Flowers"
Missouri Botanical Garden
Saturday, Feb. 1 at 7:00 pm



Your Invitation is in the Mail!

Members of the National Audubon Society in our state will be invited to gather at Powder Valley Nature Center in Kirkwood, Missouri, on March 1, 2003. Saint Louis Audubon Society will be hosting this annual event.

Under the theme, *The Vision of One Audubon*, the meeting will feature Dan McGuiness, Director of the NAS Upper Mississippi River Campaign and Tony Robyn, Executive Director of the Joplin Audubon Center, to name a few. After a delicious lunch, catered by Hendri's, concurrent sessions discussions will include: IBA's (Important Bird Areas), State Conservation Forum, the Joplin Audubon Center as the new Audubon Center Model, and Chapter Fundraising.

The gathering will begin at 9:30 am and adjourn at 4:00 pm. The cost will be \$25/individual and \$40/couple.

Please plan on attending this conference and meet other members from around the state! Look for the registration flyer in your mailbox soon!

Tale Feathers

Tale Feathers is published monthly by the St. Louis Audubon Society. Messenger Printing prints 2,500 copies of each newsletter on recycled paper using soy ink. Anne Bolte edits the newsletter.

St. Louis Audubon Society 2002 - 2003

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Attention!

The deadline for the March issue is **Feb. 10**. Send inquiries to Anne by
E-mail ambolte@swbell.net

phone 314.832.0938

post 6939 Sharp

St. Louis, MO 63116

St. Louis Audubon Society

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This form makes you a member of **both** the National and St. Louis Audubon.

Audubon is a membership organization dedicated to protecting birds, other wildlife, and their habitats. Our members are the source of our volunteer strength and the foundation of our financial support. By becoming a member, you will receive National Audubon Society's magazine as well as the St. Louis Audubon Society newsletter, *Tale Feathers*.

St. Louis Audubon Society Membership Form

Membership category desired:

- ☐ Introductory / \$20
☐ Special two-year Introductory / \$30
☐ Sr. Citizen / Student / \$15
☐ Local Chapter / \$15 Make checks payable
to SLAS and send to above address

Send a check made out to:
National Audubon Society
P.O. Box 220227
St. Louis, Mo. 63122

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

N01 7XCH

Please support your local chapter. Use this form to join or renew.